UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/51/L.8
28 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 98

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 and its decisions 47/447 of 22 December 1992, 48/446 of 21 December 1993 and 49/439 of 19 December 1994,

Noting with appreciation the near universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and the significant progress made in national capacities to plan, implement and monitor progress for children within the framework of the needs and rights of the child,

Recognizing the linkage between the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and welcomes the conclusions contained therein;

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

2/ A/51/256.

2. Welcomes the significant progress reported by most countries on achieving the majority of the mid-decade goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children, particularly in immunization, the control of diarrhoeal diseases, polio, guinea worm and iodine deficiency disorders, and access to safe water;

3. Welcomes further the overwhelming response of developing countries to the commitments agreed at the World Summit for Children;

4. Expresses concern that progress on malnutrition, maternal mortality, sanitation, and girls' education has been weak, uncertain, or even negligible;

5. Takes note of the considerable variation in the progress made across countries and regions due to different baseline conditions in 1990 and the varying rates of progress in relation to the goals;

6. Reaffirms the need for effective follow-up to the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s; 3/

7. Recognizes the need for more intensive efforts in order to reach the goals for child mortality, the education of children, in particular girl children, maternal mortality, child malnutrition and sanitation;

8. Recognizes also the important role of the United Nations system in providing coordinated support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action and the leadership role of the United Nations Children's Fund;

9. Invites Governments to increase their budget allocations to basic social services for covering the special needs of children in order to facilitate achieving the goals set out in the World Declaration and Plan of Action;

10. Urges developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

11. Stresses the need for according particular attention to the special needs of children in regions of slow progress, particularly the least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa, and in other developing countries that have not yet reached the mid-decade goals;

3/ A/45/625, annex.

12. Recognizes the need for continued international support to those developing countries that have already reached the mid-decade goals or the end-of-decade goals, in order to ensure the sustainability of such achievements;

13. Recognizes also the contribution to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children of the mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of national budgets to basic social programmes;

14. Stresses the need to continue strengthening and expanding effective partnerships between Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, international donor agencies, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, in order to ensure full achievement of the goals by the year 2000;

15. Stresses also the need for greater efforts to involve children themselves in all matters affecting them, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

16. Stresses further the need for sustainable progress in the attainment of goals through, inter alia, support for national capacity-building, including that of local communities and civil society, including non-governmental organizations;

17. Recognizes the importance of fostering exchanges of experience between countries, including South-South cooperation, in order to help disseminate successful programmes;

18. Calls on all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the lessons learned at mid-decade and invites relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their respective competencies, to address the special needs of children for the achievement of the goals for the year 2000;

19. Calls on all relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen inter-agency collaboration regarding refugee children and take the necessary steps to ensure that such collaboration is considered in related policies and programmes;

20. Stresses the necessity and importance of setting measurable indicators and targets and of improving data collection and assessment concerning the implementation of all Summit goals, including the goal of improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances, in particular, displaced and refugee children, so that the issue continues to be one of the key components of the World Declaration and Programme of Action;

21. Calls on Governments and their partners to adjust, refine and prioritize, where necessary, their goals and strategies within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, taking into account lessons learned during the mid-decade reviews, to suit local situations;

22. Calls on Governments and the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to mainstream the gender perspective in their activities, plans and programmes;

23. Urges full integration of the follow-up to the Summit goals into the work of the inter-agency task forces and other mechanisms established to ensure a coordinated and effective follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

24. Decides to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the special session a review of the implementation and results of the World Declaration and Plan of Action, including appropriate recommendations for further action;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on preparations for the special session.